

Title: Need to withdraw the move to make disinvestments in Neyveli Lignite Corporation.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (MADRAS NORTH): Sir, the Government has a proposal to make disinvestment of Neyveli Lignite Corporation. It is a unique undertaking with an integrated project of coal mining and power generation. It has earned a total profit of Rs.4515 crore in the last 25 years and its profit last year was Rs.725 crore. During this year, it has earned a profit of Rs.950 crore as of now. Moreover, the electricity that is generated through their power stations are sold to the Southern region, namely to the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh at a very cheap rate, at Rs.1.65 and to the State of Tamil Nadu at Rs.1.14. Whereas the power generated from the private sector is sold at Rs.4.50 to Rs.5.50. so, if the NLC is privatised, then the economy of all the Southern States would be affected as their budget for power would go up, and their financial position would further worsen. NLC has also got very ambitious projects in hand like Mine-II and Mine-III Expansion, and Thermal Power Station TPS-III 2x500 MW power, with their own resources, without depending on the Budgetary Support.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government not to make any efforts to disturb the capital structural arrangements of this undertaking, as that would unnecessarily create trouble not only in the power sector but also would affect the entire economy of the Southern States.

Sir, may I make a submission? The hon. Coal Minister as well as the hon. Finance Minister are available here. The entire staff are on strike in Neyveli. The power generation has come to zero unit. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to read whatever that is given in writing.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI : Sir, I would request the Minister to respond. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): I have asked the CMD to discuss it with the Union. You have rightly said that the power generation has come down. That is why, we are not getting the electricity. Once it is restored, they will get it. So, I have asked the CMD today itself that they have to talk to the Union people. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a procedure.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (RAIGANJ): Sir, the Minister has responded to it. I support his intervention. But for every Member, who raise the Matter under Rule 377, equal intervention from the Treasury Bench is expected. There is a discrimination. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has given a positive response. (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, I fully appreciate the Minister. But the Treasury Bench should respond to other Members when they raise their Matters under Rule 377. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, are you going to disinvest NLC?... (Interruptions)

श्री राम विलास पासवान : प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी जी, हमको बोलना नहीं चाहिए था। (व्यवधान)

You must appreciate it. ... (Interruptions)

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : मैंने तो आपको एप्रीसिएट किया है। (व्यवधान)

श्री राम विलास पासवान : लेकिन चूंकि बहुत इम्पोर्टेंट मामला था, इसलिए मैंने इण्टरवीन कर दिया।

श्री प्रियरंजन दासमुंशी : इसमें आपकी कोई गलती नहीं है। मैंने तो कहा कि सरकार की तरफ से सब के ऊपर कहना चाहिए। इन्वेस्टमेंट मिनिस्टर तो गायब हैं, वे तो हाउस में ही नहीं हैं। (व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Because the Minister has committed a positive reply, I am not expunging it.